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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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WHAT IF™ SPIDER-MAN HAD NEVER BECOME A CRIMEFIGHTER?

HE-E-E-ERE'S SPIDEY!

HAVE WE GOT A SHOW FOR YOU TONIGHT!

THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR...UNCLE BEN'S ALIVE AND WELL AND SPIDER-MAN'S IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

BUT DEATH IS WAITING IN THE WINGS!

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Stan Lee presents: A STUNNING SAGA OF AN ALTERNATE REALITY!

WHAT IF SPIDER-MAN HAD STOPPED the BURGLAR WHO KILLED HIS UNCLE?

I AM THE WATCHER-- AND HERE IS A COMMON TRAGEDY WITH UNCOMMON PARTICIPANTS!

UNCLE BEN-- I FAILED YOU! IT'S MY FAULT YOU'RE DEAD!

IN FOND MEMORY OF BEN PARKER

BORN 1902

CHERISHED HUSBAND
BELOVED UNCLE
DIED 19[illegible]

MAY HE REST IN PEACE

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LF 367

WHAT IF?™ Vol. 1, No. 19, February, 1980 issue. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP. James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published bi-monthly. Copyright © 1979 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 75¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate $9.00 for 12 issues. Canada, $10.00. Foreign, $11.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the stipulations that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in this issue) and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP.

YOU AND AUNT MAY WERE THE PARENTS I NEVER KNEW.

YOUR FAVORITE BREAKFAST, PETER--WHEATCAKES.

DON'T FEED HIM SO, MAY! I CAN HARDLY OUTWRESTLE HIM NOW!

THEN, AT A SCIENTIFIC DEMONSTRATION...

THE SPIDER--IT BIT ME! BUT WHY IS IT GLOWING SO? COULD IT BE--RADIOACTIVE?

I HAD SOMEHOW GAINED THE POWERS OF A HUMAN SPIDER! IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT I CASH IN ON THOSE POWERS BY BECOMING A TV STAR!

TV

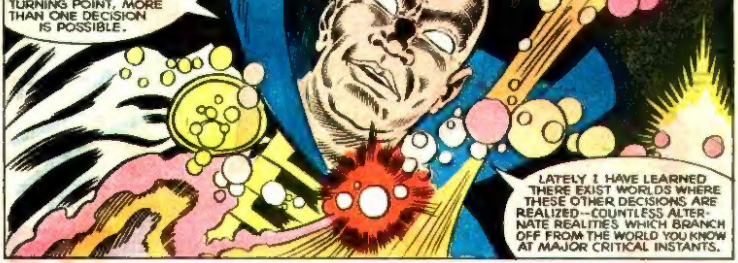
"I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE PROUD, UNCLE BEN!

BUT I WAS JUST A PUNK KID FILLED WITH EGO, UNCLE BEN. I FORGOT ALL YOU TAUGHT ME! WHEN THAT BURGLAR RAN BY MY DRESSING ROOM, I COULD HAVE STOPPED HIM--BUT I DIDN'T!

THE GUARD SAID, "*ALL YOU HADDA DO WAS TRIP HIM--OR HOLD HIM FOR A MINUTE!*"

AND I SAID, "*SAVE IT, BUDDY! I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO!*"

HOW THOSE WORDS STICK IN MY THROAT NOW!



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STOP HIM? OF COURSE I'LL STOP HIM! NO ONE ESCAPES JUSTICE, JUST AS NO ONE ESCAPES THE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN!
GLORY BE!
SHLAK!
THUS SPIDER-MAN, IN THIS WORLD, AVERTS TRAGEDY! BUT THIS IS NOT A NOBLE TRIUMPH...
FOR IT IS DONE FOR-- PUBLICITY.
CRUNCH!
WELL, I NEVER!
NOW, GO GET THE TV NEWS PEOPLE!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL TELL THE WORLD!
THE DAILY GLO
TV STAR NABS CROOK!
SPIDER-MAN HERO!
180-POUND CATCH
DISGUSTING! YELLOW JOURNALISM! SENSATIONALISM!
THIS GLORIFICATION OF SO-CALLED SUPERHEROES UPSETS ME, MISS BRANT! IT UPSETS ME!
DO YOU KNOW WHY IT UPSETS ME?
BECAUSE THE GLOBE GOT A BLASTED EXCLUSIVE! THE DAILY BUGLE DIDN'T GET ONE PICTURE! NOT ONE!!
C-CALM DOWN, Mr. JAMESON! C-CALM D-DOWN--!
LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF A FAMOUS FILM PRODUCER...
--AND I THINK I CAN MAKE US A LOT OF MONEY, J.B.!
SURE, YOUR RATINGS ARE GOOD, SPIDER-MAN--

AND THEY'LL BE BETTER, J.B.! THE PUBLIC SAYS IT WANTS SPIDER-MAN! *DEMANDS* SPIDER-MAN! AND YOU CAN PUT HIM ON THE BIG SCREEN!

YOU HAVE DRIVE, YOUNG MAN! AND J.B. PRIEST LIKES DRIVE! BUT--

--TO BASE A MOVIE ON A FEW GIMMICKS--?

GIMMICKS? YOU DON'T GET IT! SPIDER-MAN IS NO GIMMICK--

--HE'S THE REAL THING!

WELL?

I'LL HAVE THE CONTRACTS DRAWN UP IMMEDIATELY, ULP SPIDER-MAN!

"LATER..." WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T PUNY PARKER! SURE YOU CAN CARRY THOSE HEAVY BOOKS?

MIDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

FLASH, DON'T--!

MISTER THOMPSON--!

YOU'LL KINDLY TAKE YOUR PAW OFF ME! I DON'T CARE FOR NOBODIES TOUCHING ME!

HUH?!?

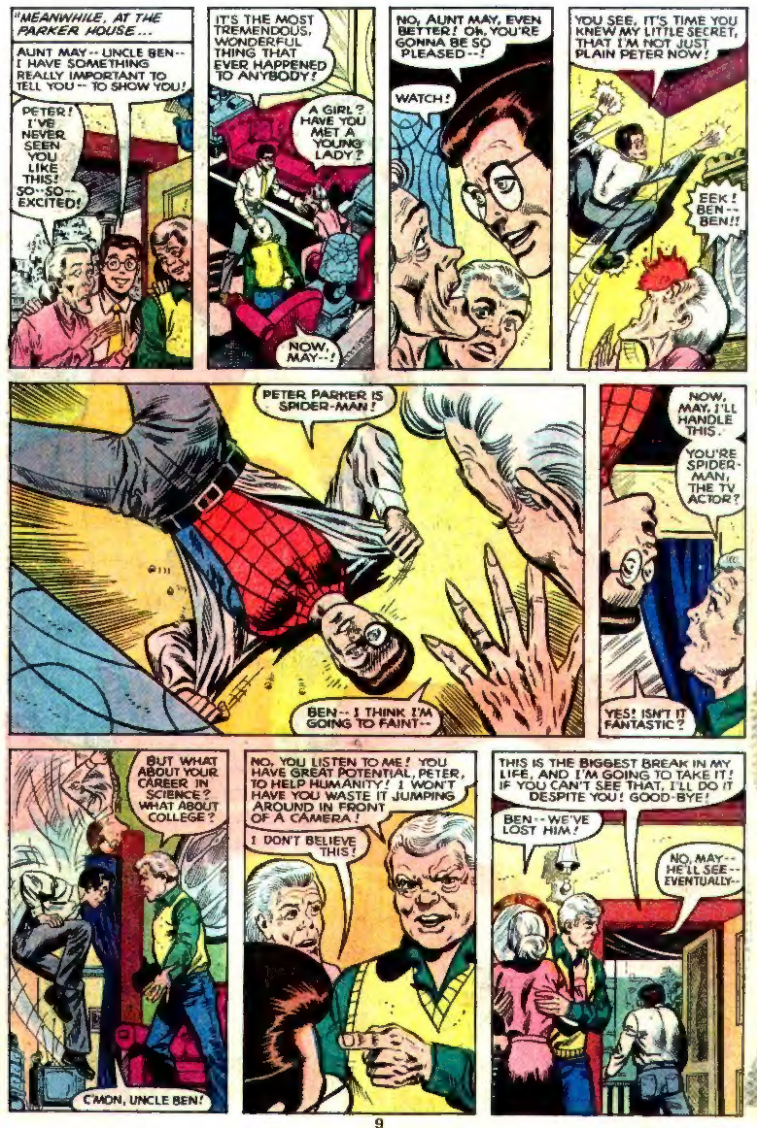
"THAT NIGHT..."

PETER! WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO IN SUCH A RUSH?

SLAM

OUT, UNCLE BEN! I HAVE TO--UH--HELP OUT A FRIEND!

AND SUBSTITUTING FOR JOHNNY TONIGHT-- THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!
STAY TUNED FOR THE TONIGHT SHOW...
Starring JOHNNY CARSON
CHERYL, WE'LL GET BACK TO TALKING ABOUT THIS NEW FILM OF YOURS IN A MOMENT, BUT FIRST--
WANT TO KNOW WHY I DON'T HAVE THOSE WEBS UNDER MY ARMS TONIGHT? WELL, I STARTED USING NEW, ICE-BLUE--
WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR A BULLETIN! JOHN JAMESON, AMERICAN ASTRONAUT, HAS DIED UPON RE-ENTRY INTO THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!
WE TAKE YOU TO NEW YORK'S DAILY BUGLE, WHERE WE HAVE HIS FATHER--
--J. JONAH JAMESON--!
MY SON WAS A HERO! A REAL HERO, NOT LIKE THOSE CLOWNS WITH SUPER-POWERS! THE WORLD WILL REMEMBER HIM THAT WAY!
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND...
WHY THE REAL HEROES ALWAYS HAVE TO-- DIE.


"MEANWHILE, AT THE PARKER HOUSE...
AUNT MAY -- UNCLE BEN -- I HAVE SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU -- TO SHOW YOU!
PETER! I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THIS! SO--SO-- EXCITED!
IT'S THE MOST TREMENDOUS, WONDERFUL THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ANYBODY!
A GIRL? HAVE YOU MET A YOUNG LADY?
NOW, MAY--!
NO, AUNT MAY, EVEN BETTER! OH, YOU'RE GONNA BE SO PLEASED--!
WATCH!
YOU SEE, IT'S TIME YOU KNEW MY LITTLE SECRET, THAT I'M NOT JUST PLAIN PETER NOW!
EEK! BEN -- BEN!!
PETER PARKER IS SPIDER-MAN!
BEN-- I THINK I'M GOING TO FAINT--
NOW, MAY, I'LL HANDLE THIS.
YOU'RE SPIDER-MAN, THE TV ACTOR?
YES! ISN'T IT FANTASTIC?
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR CAREER IN SCIENCE? WHAT ABOUT COLLEGE?
C'MON, UNCLE BEN!
NO, YOU LISTEN TO ME! YOU HAVE GREAT POTENTIAL, PETER, TO HELP HUMANITY! I WON'T HAVE YOU WASTE IT JUMPING AROUND IN FRONT OF A CAMERA!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
THIS IS THE BIGGEST BREAK IN MY LIFE, AND I'M GOING TO TAKE IT! IF YOU CAN'T SEE THAT, I'LL DO IT DESPITE YOU! GOOD-BYE!
BEN -- WE'VE LOST HIM!
NO, MAY -- HE'LL SEE -- EVENTUALLY--

"AND SO SPIDER-MAN LEFT A LIFE BEHIND HIM AS HE TOOK OFF FOR HOLLYWOOD AND HIS FIRST MAJOR MOTION PICTURE...
IT LOOKS GOOD, SPIDEY! KEEP SPRAYING THE WEB! GOOD! GOOD!
"ALL RIGHT, DOCTOR DREAD... THIS TIME YOU'VE HAD IT!"
"AND IT WAS WITH A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF PUBLICITY THAT HE RETURNED TO NEW YORK FOR HIS GALA PREMIERE.
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
MARLON BRANDO · GENE HACKMAN
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
PREMIERE TONIGHT!

CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

THE NEXT DAY
THEY-- LAUGHED AT ME, JONAH
THEY DID WHAT, FOSWELL?
I ASKED WHAT YOU TOLD ME-- AND HE SAID I MUST BE FROM THE BUGLE, AND THEY ALL LAUGHED.
OH, THEY DID, DID THEY? WELL LET ME TELL YOU, FOSWELL.
THEY'LL BE LAUGHING OUT OF THE OTHER SIDE OF THEIR MOUTHS SOON!
BAM!
I'LL FIX SPIDER-MAN!
I'VE STILL GOT THE BEST NEWS STAFF IN THE COUNTRY, AND I'M GOING TO HIT HIM WHERE IT HURTS!
MISS BRANT! GET ME THAT BOYFRIEND OF YOURS, WHAT'S HIS NAME, NED LEEDS! I'VE GOT A JOB FOR HIM! AND STOP GOOFING OFF!
B-BUT IT'S MY COFFEE BREAK, MR. JAMESON!
WHAT?! IN MY DAY, WE DIDN'T HAVE COFFEE BREAKS! WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE COFFEE!
YOU TELL LEEDS I HAVE A TOP SECRET ASSIGNMENT FOR HIM! I WANT HIM TO FIND OUT SPIDER-MAN'S SECRET IDENTITY!
YES SIR!
WEEKS LATER...
WELL, THE MOVIE'S A SMASH! I BET AUNT MAY AND UNCLE BEN NEVER SAW A CHECK THAT BIG IN THEIR LIVES!
AND THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING, SPIDER MAN!

BUT I'VE GOT TO PLAY IT SMART -- DIVERSIFY MY HOLDINGS -- MAYBE BECOME A PRODUCER MYSELF! YES, I THINK THAT'S IT!

I'LL START SETTING IT UP RIGHT NOW--
PETE! THIS IS TERRIBLE! YOU GOTTA SEE THIS!

THIS EDITION OF THE BUGLE JUST HIT THE STANDS!
NO!! IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! HOW--!

"PETER PARKER IS SPIDER-MAN!" THAT WAS TO BE OUR GIMMICK FOR "SPIDER-MAN II"!
WHADDA WE DO, PETE?
DAILY BUGLE
PETER PARKER IS SPIDER-MAN

DO? DO?? WE'RE GOING TO FIX MR. J. JONAH JAMESON -- FIX HIM GOOD!
NOW, LISTEN CLOSELY, BECAUSE HERE'S WHAT WE DO--

"AT THE BUGLE..
OH, HAPPY DAY
I WOULD SO LOVE TO SEE THE EXPRESSION ON PARKER'S FACE!

WHAT? WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON HERE?

GUNMEN -- IN SPIDER MAN MASKS!
HE WOULDN'T--! WOULD HE?

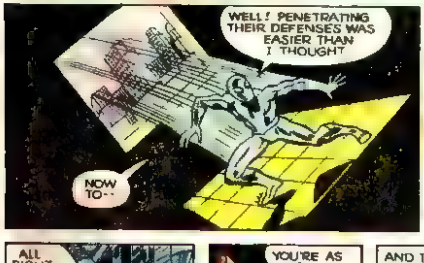
ALL RIGHT, JAMESON. GET YOUR HANDS UP! NOW!
LISTEN, THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! I'M JUST THE COPY BOY! JAMESON'S OUT!

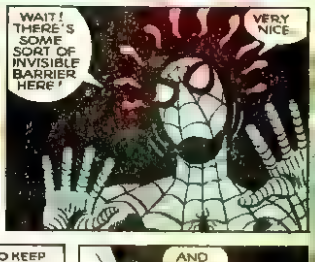
TH-THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE!
NO MISTAKE, JAMESON. YOU'RE THE ONE WE WANT!
NO--PLEASE!
YOU WANT A FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BUGLE? TWO SUBSCRIPTIONS? TO THE GLOBE, MAYBE?
NAW, ALL WE WANT IS THAT YOU LET THE BOSS HAVE A FEW WORDS WIT' YOU!
THE B-B-B-B-B-B-B-SP-SP-SPI--S-SPIDER-
YOU STUTTERED THE MAGIC WORD, JAMESON, SPIDER-MAN!
I WANT TO DISCUSS A FEW MATTERS WITH YOU!
S-SPIDER-MAN! MY IDOL! I LOVED YOUR MOVIE! SAW IT THREE TIMES!
I'LL BET.
SINCE YOU WERE CONCERNED ENOUGH ABOUT ME TO PRINT MY IDENTITY, I THOUGHT I'D RETURN THE FAVOR AND GIVE YOU WHAT'S COMING TO YOU.
NO- YOU MUSTN'T--!
OH, I INSIST, JONAH!
NO! I'LL BE GOOD- JUST DON'T-
OH, SHUT UP AND TAKE THE PLAQUE!
PLAQUE?
THE SPIDER MAN AWARD FOR OUT-STANDING INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING! CONGRATU-LATIONS!
Ahem! UNACCUSTOMED AS I AM TO PUBLIC SPEAKING-
THAT'S IT, JAMESON BUT I THINK YOU GOT MY MESSAGE CROSS ME AGAIN-- AND IT'LL BE FOR REAL!

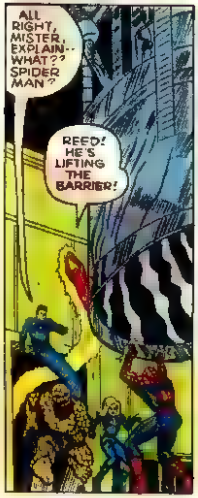
THE NEXT DAY...
THERE IT IS - THE BAXTER BUILDING! TIME FOR PHASE TWO OF SPIDER MAN'S CAREER!

AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR WILL PLAY A BIG PART IN IT!

Y'KNOW, THIS IS A LOT OF FUN, SWINGING AROUND! I SHOULD DO IT MORE OFTEN!

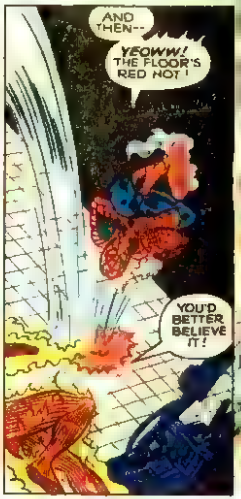

WELL! PENETRATING THEIR DEFENSES WAS EASIER THAN I THOUGHT
NOW TO--

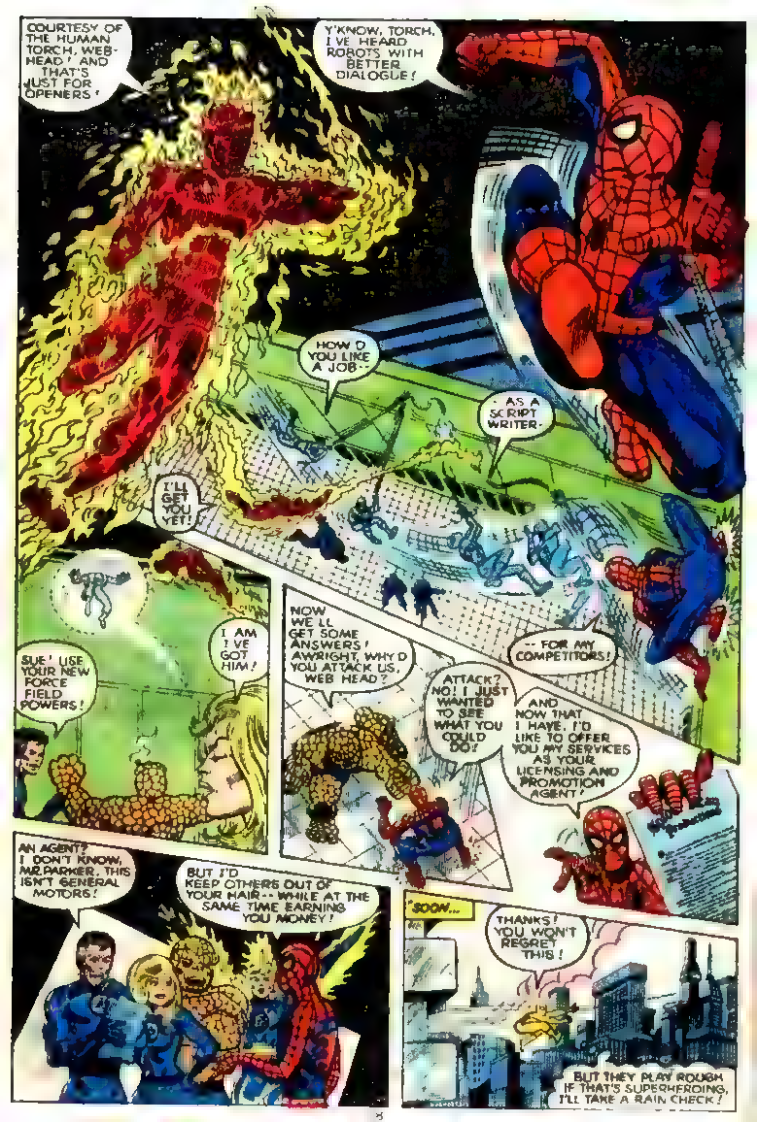

WAIT! THERE'S SOME SORT OF INVISIBLE BARRIER HERE!
VERY NICE

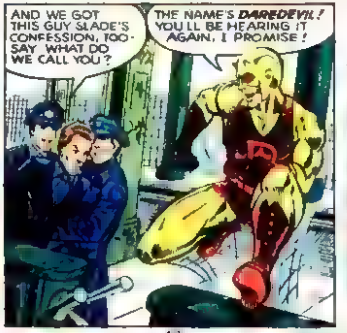

ALL RIGHT, MISTER, EXPLAIN-- WHAT?? SPIDER MAN?
REED! HE'S LIFTING THE BARRIER!

YOU'RE AS UGLY AS THEY SAY YOU ARE, THING!
COME BACK HERE, YA LITTLE RUNT!

AND TO KEEP MR FANTASTIC FROM HAVING TO LOOK AT YOU - VOILA!
MY EYES!


AND THEN--
YEOWW! THE FLOOR'S RED HOT!
YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE IT!


COURTESY OF THE HUMAN TORCH, WEB-HEAD! AND THAT'S JUST FOR OPENERS!
Y'KNOW, TORCH, I'VE HEARD ROBOTS WITH BETTER DIALOGUE!
HOW'D YOU LIKE A JOB--
--AS A SCRIPT WRITER--
I'LL GET YOU YET!
SUE! USE YOUR NEW FORCE FIELD POWERS!
I AM I'VE GOT HIM!
NOW WE'LL GET SOME ANSWERS! AWRIGHT, WHY'D YOU ATTACK US, WEB HEAD?
--FOR MY COMPETITORS!
ATTACK? NO! I JUST WANTED TO SEE WHAT YOU COULD DO!
AND NOW THAT I HAVE, I'D LIKE TO OFFER YOU MY SERVICES AS YOUR LICENSING AND PROMOTION AGENT!
AN AGENT? I DON'T KNOW, MR. PARKER, THIS ISN'T GENERAL MOTORS!
BUT I'D KEEP OTHERS OUT OF YOUR HAIR--WHILE AT THE SAME TIME EARNING YOU MONEY!
SOON...
THANKS! YOU WON'T REGRET THIS!
BUT THEY PLAY ROUGH. IF THAT'S SUPERHERDING, I'LL TAKE A RAIN CHECK!



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I CAN MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE HEARS THE NAME DAREDEVIL! I CAN MAKE YOU A STAR!
SWW
COME DOWN FROM THERE! I DON'T LIKE TO SHOUT!
YES, I HAVE. HOLLYWOOD'S VERSION OF A SUPERHERO. I'M SORRY BUT MY INTEREST IS IN FIGHTING CRIME, NOT HAVING MY OWN TV SHOW
GLADLY! MY NAME'S SPIDER-MAN. I THINK YOU'VE HEARD OF ME
I KNOW WHAT YOU STAND FOR. THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO BECOME A HOUSEHOLD WORD! YOU AND YOUR IDEALS!
YOU'RE GLIB, PARKER, ROYALTIES WON'T CATCH A MURDERER!
WON'T THEY? WON'T FAVORABLE PUBLICITY HELP
—A VIGILANTE, WORKING OUTSIDE THE LAW?
Hmm-- YOU DO HAVE A POINT. VERY WELL--
*AND SOON, AT THE OFFICES OF SPIDER-MAN PRODUCTIONS...
MY STAFF CAME UP WITH A COSTUME TO REPLACE THAT YELLOW AND BLACK MONSTROSITY! HONESTLY, DD, YOU MUST BE COLOR BLIND!
NO. TOTALLY BLIND. BUT I AM NOT ABOUT TO ADMIT THAT TO YOU, 'SPIDEY'!
GO TRY IT ON
WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?

SPIDER MAN, I'D GIVE YOU MY OPINION, BUT MY VOCABULARY JUST ISN'T FOUL ENOUGH!
Uhh WHAT'S WRONG, DD?
FIRST, THIS STUPID CAPE!
Hmmph!
AND SECOND, THIS TRIDENT! OF ALL THE CLUMSY, USELESS, IMPRACTICAL GIMMICKS...!
HEY, TAKE IT EASY, DD!
YOU'RE THE BOSS! WHATEVER YOU SAY GOES! I'M ONLY TRYING TO HELP!
WELL, JUST REMEMBER THAT I'M RISKING MY LIFE FIGHTING CRIME! IT'S NO GAME, PARKER!
OF COURSE! OF COURSE! I DID THINK YOU MIGHT PREFER YOUR BILLY CLUB!
LOOK, I'M SORRY, DD I STEPPED OUT OF LINE STILL FRIENDS?
STILL CLIENT AND AGENT AT ANY RATE SPIDER MAN

"AND THE BIG PUBLICITY BUILD-UP FOR DAREDEVIL BEGAN--

SPIDER MAN PRODUCTIONS INC.
Presents
DAREDEVIL!

"--BUT NOT ALL WERE HAPPY ABOUT IT.

"--BUT WHEN SPIDER-MAN DECIDES TO CREATE A NEW HERO OUT OF THIN AIR FOR HIS PROFIT, IT IS NOTHING LESS THAN A SLAP IN THE FACE TO THOSE REAL HEROES."

LET'S SEE.

"IT IS BAD ENOUGH THAT THE REAL HEROES IN THIS WORLD, POLICEMEN, FIREMEN, ASTRONAUTS ARE IGNORED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MEDDLING GARISH CLOWNS CALLED BY SOME 'SUPER HEROES'--"

LISTEN TO THIS, FOSWELL: "THE BUGLE CANNOT SIT IDLY BY AND ALLOW THIS AFFRONT TO GO UNCHALLENGED. THEREFORE--"

MADD

ELSEWHERE...

DAILY

"--ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS 'DAREDEVIL' IS A VIGILANTE, THE DAILY BUGLE IS FILING--"

"--SUIT IN FEDERAL COURT--"

THAT DOES IT!

YOU'RE THROUGH, JAMESON! SPIDER MAN IS GOING TO BURY YOU!

"WITHIN THE HOUR . .
THERE'S BETTY BRANT, JAMESON'S SECRETARY, AND SHE'S BEING GRABBED BY THOSE GANGSTERS-- THE ENFORCERS!
THIS COULD BE THE CONNECTION I NEED!
THE BUGLE
I SURE LIKE IT WHEN YA MAKE YOUR LOAN PAYMENTS ON TIME! THE BIG MAN CONSIDERS YOU HIS NICEST CLIENT!
YOU MONSTER! DO YOU THINK I'D BE DOING THIS IF I HAD ANY CHOICE? IF ONLY MY BROTHER HADN'T THOSE GAMBLING DEBTS--!
VERY INTERESTING, MISS BRANT! AND NOW A SPIDEY TRACER ON THEIR CAR-
--SHOULD LEAD ME TO THE BIG MAN! AND MAYBE I CAN TIE JAMESON INTO IT!
THERE HE IS! WITH MY POWERS IT'LL BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM AND LEARN HIS IDENTITY!
"HE DOES, AND--
HELLO? IS THIS BUSHKIN AT THE GLOBE? THIS IS SPIDER-MAN! I'VE GOT THE SCOOP OF THE CENTURY FOR YOU-- THE IDENTITY OF THE BIG MAN! THAT'S RIGHT!
BUT I'LL ONLY GIVE IT TO YOU IF YOU WRITE THE EXPOSE MY WAY! DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, BUSHKIN?
CHARLES POOR
OKAY! THE BIG MAN IS-- FREDERICK FOSWELL! AND HERE'S HOW I SEE THE HEADLINE -

Series special: Back Page

TODAY
[illegible]
TOMORROW
[illegible]
TV listings: P. 32

THE DAILY GLOBE

METRO
TODAY'S RACING

[illegible] 10 CENTS

CRIME SYNDICATE RUN FROM BUGLE OFFICES!

Sgt. Edward Vin detaining Publisher J. Jonah Jameson for questioning as Foswell arrested.

After long weeks of investigation, reporters for the GLOBE today finally uncovered the identity of the notorious Big Man, boss of most of the New York Rackets. He was found to be Frederick Foswell, right hand man to J. Jonah Jameson, publisher of the Daily Bugle. Jameson seemed to be completely surprised by the revelation, but was taken downtown for questioning nevertheless. Reports linking Jameson directly to the rackets have been current among informed sources, but so far have not been adequately substantiated. Foswell was apprehended by police while in conference with Jameson at the Bugle offices, and surrendered without a struggle. It is thought that the Big Man, using his info of thugs known as the Enforcers, had taken over nearly three-quarters of the New York rackets, including gambling, prostitution, narcotics, and turning tennis balls into MacRonald Hamburgers. No connection with Donald MacRonald seems to be indicated at this time, however. (Cont. on page 34)

Should Jameson Resign?

AN EDITORIAL BY

BERNARD BUSHKIN

Spokesman. It's an [illegible] question even upper [illegible] today. The word that J. Jonah Jameson [illegible] the newspaper business doesn't [illegible] anymore.

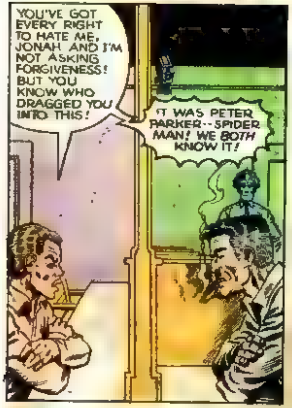
Should Jameson resign? The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

JAMESON--
WHAT? WHO ARE YOU?

FOSWELL WANTS TO SEE YOU RYKER'S ISLAND TOMORROW.
FOSWELL?!? THAT-- I'LL BE THERE.

"AND...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO SAY TO ME, FOSWELL! THIS WHOLE THING IS YOUR FAULT!


YOU'VE GOT EVERY RIGHT TO HATE ME, JONAH AND I'M NOT ASKING FORGIVENESS! BUT YOU KNOW WHO DRAGGED YOU INTO THIS!
IT WAS PETER PARKER--SPIDER MAN! WE BOTH KNOW IT!

JONAH, I NEED AN OUTSIDE MAN TO RUN THE RACKETS FOR ME. IN RETURN, YOU CAN USE MY ORGANIZATION TO HAVE YOUR REVENGE ON SPIDER MAN!
OUR REVENGE, JONAH!

YOU'RE CRAZY, FOSWELL! THAT WOULD MAKE ME EVERYTHING THEY SAID I WAS! AND J. JONAH JAMESON IS NOT A CROOK!

"AND FREDERICK FOSWELL SAID, 'THINK ABOUT IT'
I CAN'T DO IT! I CAN'T! I'M NOT A CRIMINAL! I COULDN'T BE ONE!

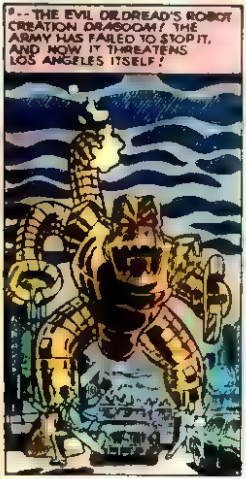
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE A HUSBAND-- A FATHER, A PUBLISHER, RIGHT? LIKE BLAZES YOU ARE! THERE'S NOTHING LEFT! NOTHING!

WHY WON'T SOMEBODY HELP ME? TELL ME WHAT TO DO? I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS! OH, PLEASE, NO. THIS ISN'T FAIR!

"AND HE LOOKED TOWARD HEAVEN BUT SAW A BILLBOARD INSTEAD SPIDER-MAN PROUDLY PRESENTS... DAREDEVIL!...

"AND HE FOUND A PHONE BOOTH AND MADE A CALL

"SIX MONTHS LATER: LOS ANGELES' SUNSET STRIP.
"AND AN AFTERNOON'S PEACE IS SHATTERED BY--


"--THE EVIL DR.DREAD'S ROBOT CREATION DRAGOON! THE ARMY HAS FAILED TO STOP IT, AND NOW IT THREATENS LOS ANGELES ITSELF!

"THERE IS PANIC IN THE STREETS, AS MOTORISTS ABANDON THEIR CARS AND FLEE ON FOOT!

"THE CITIZENS OF L.A. RUN SCREAMING IN TERROR FROM THE INVINCIBLE DRAGOON!

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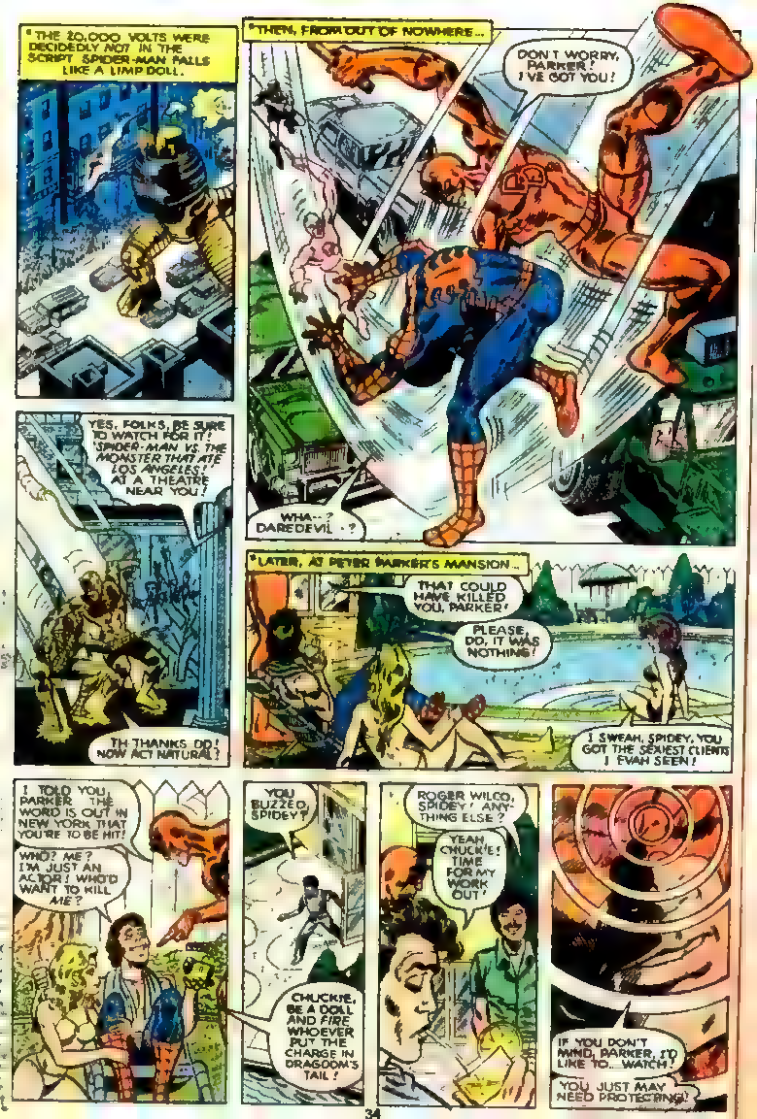
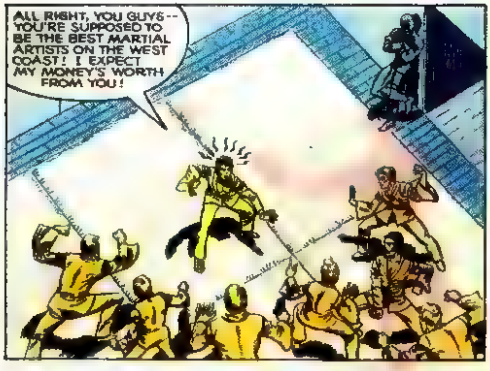
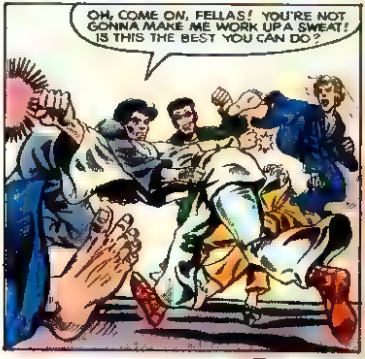
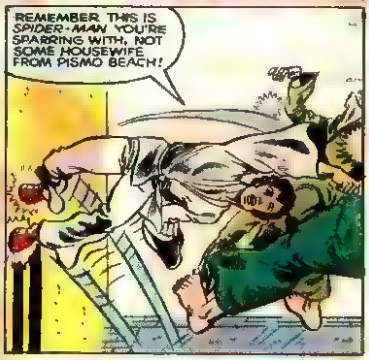
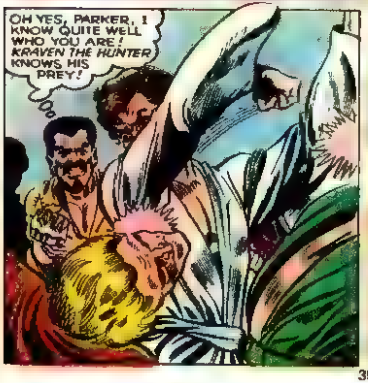

*THE 20,000 VOLTS WERE DECIDEDLY NOT IN THE SCRIPT. SPIDER-MAN FALLS LIKE A LIMP DOLL.
*THEN, FROM OUT OF NOWHERE...
DON'T WORRY, PARKER! I'VE GOT YOU!
WHA--? DAREDEVIL--?
YES, FOLKS, BE SURE TO WATCH FOR IT! 'SPIDER-MAN VS. THE MONSTER THAT ATE LOS ANGELES!' AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU!
TH THANKS, DD! NOW ACT NATURAL!
*LATER, AT PETER PARKER'S MANSION...
THAT COULD HAVE KILLED YOU, PARKER!
PLEASE, DD, IT WAS NOTHING!
I SWEAR, SPIDEY, YOU GOT THE SEXIEST CLIENTS I EVAH SEEN!
I TOLD YOU, PARKER, THE WORD IS OUT IN NEW YORK THAT YOU'RE TO BE HIT!
WHO? ME? I'M JUST AN ACTOR! WHO'D WANT TO KILL ME?
YOU BUZZED, SPIDEY?
CHUCKIE, BE A DOLL AND FIRE WHOEVER PUT THE CHARGE IN DRAGOON'S TAIL!
ROGER WILCO, SPIDEY! ANYTHING ELSE?
YEAH, CHUCK'E! TIME FOR MY WORK OUT!
IF YOU DON'T MIND, PARKER, I'D LIKE TO... WATCH!
YOU JUST MAY NEED PROTECTING!

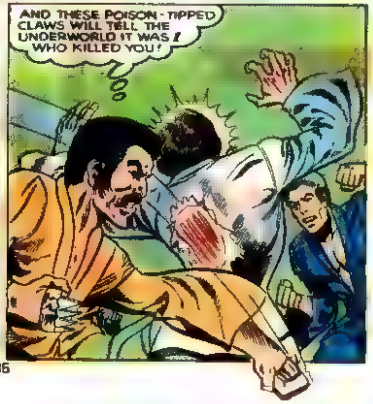

ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS -- YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST MARTIAL ARTISTS ON THE WEST COAST! I EXPECT MY MONEY'S WORTH FROM YOU!

DON'T PULL ANY PUNCHES! ATTACK ME SINGLY OR IN GROUPS! BEGIN -- NOW!


OH, COME ON, FELLAS! YOU'RE NOT GONNA MAKE ME WORK UP A SWEAT! IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO?


REMEMBER, THIS IS SPIDER-MAN YOU'RE SPARRING WITH, NOT SOME HOUSEWIFE FROM PISMO BEACH!


OH YES, PARKER, I KNOW QUITE WELL WHO YOU ARE! KRAVEN THE HUNTER KNOWS HIS PREY!

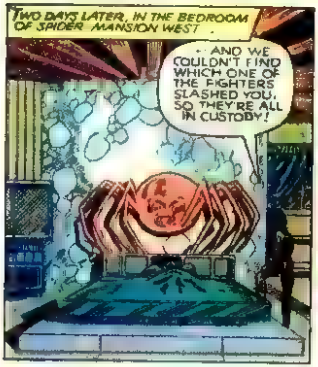

AND THESE POISON-TIPPED CLAWS WILL TELL THE UNDERWORLD IT WAS I WHO KILLED YOU!

HOLD ON! I HEARD THE RASP OF METAL ON FLESH - AND THERE'S A FAINT AROMA OF-- POISON! PARKER'S IN TROUBLE!

ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY HOLD OFF! THE SESSION'S OVER! PARKER, WHICH ONE OF THEM WOUNDED YOU? I MUST KNOW!
NOW JUST A MINUTE, DO--

I WANT THESE GUYS TO PLAY ROUGH, TO PLAY DIRTY! I PAID FOR IT! ALL THAT CRIMEFIGHTING HAS TURNED YOU INTO AN A NUMBER-ONE PARANOID!
PARANOID?

WELL, MR. PARKER, TO PARAPHRASE
JUST BECAUSE I'M PARANOID--
DOESN'T MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE REAL ENEMIES!
AS I THINK YOU NOW REALIZE!


TWO DAYS LATER, IN THE BEDROOM OF SPIDER MANSION WEST.
- AND WE COULDN'T FIND WHICH ONE OF THE FIGHTERS SLASHED YOU, SO THEY'RE ALL IN CUSTODY!

BUT I HOPE YOU BELIEVE ME NOW THAT SOMEONE WANTS YOU DEAD!
I BELIEVE YOU!

BUT I'M JUST AN ACTOR-- A PRODUCER! WHO ON EARTH WOULD WANT TO KILL ME?
I HAVEN'T GOT AN ENEMY IN THE WORLD!

IF DAREDEVIL FINDS IRONY IN PARKER'S WORDS, HE SAYS NOTHING, AS HE KEEPS AN UNWAVERING WATCH OVER THE BRASH YOUNG MOVIEMAKER IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW.

I'VE CALLED THIS WRITERS' MEETING BECAUSE, AS OF NOW, "SPIDER-MAN IS THE MONSTER" IS CO-STARRING DAREDEVIL, AND THAT MEANS A COMPLETE REWRITE OF THE SCRIPT, AND I ALSO WANT A BETTER SCRIPT!

YOU HAVE THIS TENDENCY TO GO IN FOR ARTINESS! SOCIAL COMMENTARY, LONG CONVERSATIONS, THAT SORT OF THING. WHAT I WANT IS GOOD, CLEAR, MOVIE-MAKING THE PUBLIC DOESN'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT!

THE PUBLIC DOESN'T WANT ART - IT WANTS SPIDER-MAN!

HERE'S A LIST OF SCENES ALREADY SHOT SEE WHAT YOU CAN WORK IN

Hmm... I SMELL SPIRIT GUM AND LATEX! WHAT COULD IT BE--?

MASKS! THEY'RE WEARING MASKS!

PARKER, THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG HERE.

DON'T BE SILLY WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE WRONG?

"AS IF IN ANSWER

A TRAP DOOR! WE'RE FALLING!

WHUMP
THEY LAY THERE FOR A MOMENT, MORE STUNNED THAN INJURED
THE WRITERS-- THEY MUST BE --
Oh, my
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ELECTRO -- DR.OCTOPUS -- THE VULTURE -- MYSTERIO -- AND THE SANDMAN THEY'VE BEEN PAID A LOT OF MONEY TO KILL YOU, YOU LITTLE TWERP!
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY, PARKER! PAY FOR EVERYTHING!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING

NO!! YOU WON'T DIE!!
SPIDER-MAN WILL SAVE YOU!
GET YOUR HANDS OFF HIM, THUGS! YOU WANT SPIDER-MAN--YOU GOT HIM!
WHAT ON EARTH--?
I SAID GET YOUR HANDS OFF HIM!
WELL, I'VE GOT MORE HANDS THAN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH, Mr. PARKER!
TELL ME ABOUT IT, OCTOPUS!
NO! HOW COULD A MERE ACTOR MOVE SO FAST?
GET HIM! HE'S A KILLER! A BACK-STABBER!

MYSTERIO DOESN'T NEED ANY PRODDING! I'VE BEEN THIS MAN'S LOYAL EMPLOYEE FOR MONTHS IN HIS SPECIAL EFFECTS SECTION! I CAME TO KNOW HIM AS THE SWAGGERING BOOR HE IS!
WHO DO YOU THINK PLANTED THE ELECTRICAL CHARGE IN THE ROBOT?
COME ON, "SPIDEY"-- CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!
Uh-uh, MYSTERIO-- YOU WON'T TRAP ME INSIDE THAT THING! I'VE GOT A THING CALLED SPIDER-SENSE--
--AND MY WRITERS DIDN'T DREAM IT UP TO MAKE THEIR JOBS EASIER! IT'S FOR REAL, AND IT GUIDES MY FIST RIGHT TO YOU!
AND BY THE WAY-- YOU'RE FIRED!

AREN'T YOU GUYS DRAWING OUT THIS SCENE TOO MUCH? IT'LL BORE THE AUDIENCE!
I'M NOT ONE OF YOUR MOVIE VILLAINS, PARKER!

I'M THE SANDMAN, AND I'VE FOUGHT THE FANTASTIC FOUR THEMSELVES! YOU CAN'T TOUCH ME -- AND YOU CAN'T STOP ME FROM KILLING YOU!

AND IF YOU THINK THAT DOUSING ME WITH LIBRARY PASTE WILL STOP ME, YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY!
OH, IT'S MORE THAN LIBRARY PASTE! I ALWAYS FIGURED IF MY ACTING CAREER WENT BUST, I'D MARKET MY WEB-FLUID FORMULA! IT'S SUCH A GOOD GLUE THAT IT SHOULD BIND YOUR SAND PARTICLES TOGETHER!

WHA--? I CAN'T MOVE! I CAN'T EVEN CHANGE!
BRIGHT BOY!

THE FLUSH OF VICTORY VANISHES AS SPIDER-MAN TURNS TO THE FALLEN DAREDEVIL, NOW BARELY BREATHING...
DO! OH LORD, WHY'D YOU SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOR ME? I'M NOT WORTH THE PRICE OF YOUR LIFE!

YOU! YOU GIBBERING LUNATIC! YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS! YOU'LL PAY!

NO! YOU CAN'T HAVE WON! NOT AFTER YOU KILLED ME ONCE! I MUST HAVE MY REVENGE! MUST!
SHUT UP! JUST SHUT UP!
LET'S SEE WHO'S UNDER THAT MASK -- OH, NO --!
NOT YOU! IT CAN'T BE YOU!
JAMESON!
YOU CAN'T HAVE WON, PARKER -- YOU'RE A VILLAIN! HOW CAN YOU WIN WHEN YOU'VE DESTROYED MY LIFE? MY LIFE -- MY SON -- MY NEWSPAPER! ONLY HEROES WIN -- AND YOU'RE A VILLAIN!
A VILLAIN -- YOU CAN'T HAVE WON -- YOU'VE DESTROYED EVERYTHING --
HE -- HE'S RIGHT! I DID DESTROY THIS MAN! IT IS MY FAULT!
I HAD A CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING GOOD WITH MY POWERS -- LIKE UNCLE BEN SAID!
INSTEAD, I USED THEM FOR GREED -- DESTROYING ONE MAN'S LIFE AND NEARLY CAUSING ANOTHER'S DEATH!
AND SO, EVEN IN THIS REALITY, A TEARFUL YOUTH NAMED PETER PARKER LEARNS THAT WITH GREAT POWER -- COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!
END